Dear Sara,

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill – 19 June 2018

I am writing to thank you and your colleagues for giving evidence to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee on 19 June 2018 on the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill.

At the meeting, the Committee requested, and you undertook to provide, various pieces of information. The Committee requests:

- Details of all the scientific sources of information which the Scottish Government took into account in considering setting target levels and the extent to which each influenced thinking. This information was requested in the context of questioning on the advice of the Committee on Climate Change and what other sources of high level scientific advice contributed to the Scottish Government’s approach.
- Copies of the reports you referred to containing analysis of international approaches to setting targets and meeting the ambitions of the Paris Agreement.
- Further information on why other aspects of the 2009 Act were not reviewed for consideration in the 2018 Bill, specifically including:
  - Public Sector Reporting Duties – the Committee suggested this should become aligned with the development of Climate Change Plans and that public sector leadership on climate change should be prioritised
  - Land Use Strategy – the Committee suggested that the connections between the Land Use Strategy and the Climate Change Plan could be more explicit
  - Local authority energy efficiency discount schemes – the Committee is not aware of examples of this having taken place and
would welcome further detail on what evaluation the Scottish Government has undertaken of this and why it was not considered for inclusion in the Bill

- Which organisation(s) was (were) being referred to when you said, in relation to why the Bill was not setting more pressing targets sooner and the technological advances that would be required to do so: “The experts were primarily from the Committee on Climate Change, which has the technological expertise as well as all the other expertise. Discussions were also held with colleagues and stakeholders in other parts of the organisation who are involved in those kinds of technological developments.”
  - You undertook to return to the Committee as to which organisation(s) you were referring to once you had checked consultation responses

- Detailed information on the development of the target setting criteria in the passage of the 2009 Act and the creation of the 2018 Bill, including how the specific sectors (such as energy) were included and why others were excluded.

- Detailed information, presented in a manner accessible to the Committee, of how the £13 billion figure in the financial memorandum was arrived at using TIMES, including:
  - What elements and figures (and for which elements) add up to £13 billion?
  - How much of this is anticipated to fall on the public sector and Scottish Government budget?
  - What assumptions is the TIMES Model making about the differences in actions and implementation between 80% and 90%?
  - Given you have said the £13 billion figures is calculated at today’s values, what will the anticipated costs be across the period of the targets set by the Bill?
  - How much is 2.2% of gross domestic product, as referred to in your answer on the cost of the Climate Change Plan?
  - As previously requested, an analysis of the anticipated costs of each policy and proposal laid out in the final Climate Change Plan (i.e. the figures which add up to create the 2.2% of GDP figure you previously quoted)

The Committee would appreciate a response to this by 27 July 2018 and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Graeme Dey MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee